

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1075

By McNally

A RESOLUTION relative to voluntary retirement plans for small businesses in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, overall personal savings rates in the United States have declined steadily for the last twenty (20) years; and

WHEREAS, low retirement rates among low and moderate income individuals threaten the retirement security of a large number of Americans; and

WHEREAS, statistics show that individuals who save through an employer's retirement plan are generally more financially secure in their retirement years than those who save on their own; and

WHEREAS, sixty-two percent (62%) of Tennessee private sector workers do not participate in an employer-sponsored retirement plan, a participation rate that is below the national average; and

WHEREAS, one approach being considered to improve retirement savings is establishing a public/private partnership using the infrastructure of the state retirement system to help small businesses establish a voluntary retirement program; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that the members of the General Assembly hereby urge the State Treasurer to initiate a study of the feasibility of establishing a voluntary retirement plan for small businesses in Tennessee that would offer 401(k) plans and other savings vehicles.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Treasurer shall complete such study and to report back to the respective Speakers with findings and recommendations, if any, on suggested changes no later than February 1, 2009.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the State Treasurer.